

1797

Letter to Dudley and Alice Chase

Philander Chase

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Mrs. Jamieson
Hon^d and Dear Father

KCL [971332]

By Mr Brick, who is now in Town, I receive

your kind, tho' short letter. It gives me much satisfaction to hear of the prosperity of your Diocese, even tho' that prosperity, in point of numbers, is but small. To be told that the whole of the State of New Hampshire was Stir'd, with the modern fanatic, puritanical red-hot Pheas, would do me not half the good, as to hear of the Returning of one sheep to the fold from ~~it has~~ ^{it would} strayed. — How sadly, of late years have the people professing to be Christians been blinded and led out of the way! Our forefathers, who came off from the Church of Christ, without any Divine authority of Priesthood, upon such flimsy and foolish pretences, were surely much to be blamed; and I believe that they knew themselves deserving to be so: else, why have they expunged the dreadful sin of Schism from their Catalogue &c. — It has ever been a fracture among those who trod in their steps to give a man up to the buffetings of Satan upon the least and most slight offence committed against their members, or for holding, in any wise, a different Creed from their dogmatical assertions. But the Tearing of the Body of our Sac, & putting him to ^{between} an open shame, by destroying the sinews of communion, ~~between~~ different Members of his Church, has ever been regarded in silence. None of their Ministers have ever preached upon the heinousness of this Sin; If any have done it. They have been those from whom a part of their own party have again seceded and ~~they~~ thought their own people ignorant of their own guilt. This is very natural, — and is no more than what is acted over in many other ~~instances~~ cases. The thief, for instance, will never mention the sin of stealing among those, who, he knows, are acquainted with his being guilty of that sin: But should any thing be taken from his own property; among those who are unacquainted with his ~~—~~ pilfering Character — and Behold! his outcry, ^{is} vociferous! How will he ~~sol~~ ^{stol} his own honesty and the excellency of his own Character ...

If the ~~business~~ ^{business} of the Parents are literally visited upon their Children, we have much to answer for; and I am

affair. be it as it may, that if we do not more of us
return to to the sheepfold the judgments of God will
fall heavy upon us - The Clouds begin to lower,
and the political, as well as Religious, horizon is again
darkened.

There is but one Nation upon earth, at this day, who as
such, stands up in favour, and in defence, of the True
Religion. The rest are, either (1.) her mortal
enemies - or (2.) have stripped her of her most beautiful
attire - or (3.) have kicked her out of their borders - or (4.)
are trampling her under foot and in her stead raising
up in her ~~and~~ deadly foe fanaticism. In my opinion,
to the 1st belong the Turkish and other heathen coun-
tries - to the 2^d belong the Countries under the jurisdiction
of the Pope - to the 3^d France and her "regenerate"
(alias degenerate) allies - and to the 4th and last A-
merica, dear enlightened free and independent Amer-
ica - a Country peopled by the factious spawn
of Korah Dathan and Abiram - a Country
whose pure and enlightened Religion has pro-
duced a rank infidel for their Chief Magistrate to
lead ~~the~~ dear inhabitants on to the kingdom of
their Master, and, for them, open the portals of
eternity!!! Wonderful fruits of Liberty - pure and
immaculate liberty! who is so exalted as to exclude
the care of man's best happiness, Religion!!

The dissenters from the time that they came
from the motherhood and true discipline estab-
lished by H^c and his apostles, have been de-
grading, and bringing contempt upon the name
of H^c. They with the pure sons of a turbulent

ungovernable self-sufficient spirit have been tearing
the Church of God in pieces. As a proof of this
Read Governor Winthrop's Journal - the first Gov^t of
Boston and the history of the sectaries of this Country
and, as a proof of this, look at the present fruits of
schism.

If I should go thro' the streets and point out to my compan-
ion the body of a person cut to pieces, mangled, and thrown
in different directions - here a little and there a little -
here an arm, and there a leg - here the feet and there
the fingers - what would be the conclusion in the
mind of him who bears me company and who was
an eye witness of the melancholy fact. Shall I be
deemed a madman I say that it would be that
the said person ^{is} really dead! - To apply the

case - Suppose the streets thro' which we walk
were those of this blessed Country in general - and the
body which we were viewing were the Church or those
who call themselves the Church in these states - would not
our conclusion be the same? For there is scarcely two
societies who will commune with each other - they
tend to be established on various foundations - they are
cut to pieces. And who with the Gospel before
him can say there is any life in them?
Are they the one Body of our Blessed SAV^r?
It ^{was} ~~is~~ the ~~best~~ ^{most} solemn prayers of
H^cM who died for the sins of the world that
the Church should be one (& how how can it
be otherwise if there be but one body) 'As thou Father
art

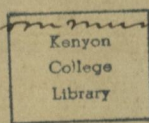
art in me, and I in thee, are one, so they may be ~~one~~
one in us." — The Primitive belief concerning

the Unity and Communion ^{of Saints} was much like the following

They followed up the similitude drawn by the Apostles between
the Spiritual Body of Chr or his Church and the Natural
Body of man in this wise. —

1 As all the fingers of the Natural hand hold communion thro
the medium of y^e palm — so all the members of individual
congregations held communion with each other thro the medium
of their respective Minister or Rector of the congregation. —

2 As the limbs arms legs &c hold ~~had~~ communion with each other
thro the medium of the trunk or body of man. So all the several
congregations, ^{with their Ministers} held communion with each other thro the medium of
their Bishop: and



3ly as the limbs members &c of the Natural ~~part~~ ^{body} make one com=
plete man when joined to and situated by the Head
the fountain of ~~that~~ ^{that} and Motion. So all the lay Mem=
bers, deacons Rectors and Bishops made up one grand
Spiritual Body by being joined to Jesus Wth the Great
Head of the Church or Bish^p of Souls. — "from whom the
whole body fitly joined together & compacted by
that which every jointly supplieth according to the
effortual working in the measure of every ^{part} maketh increase
of the Body unto the dipping of itself in love. (Eph

4: 16) Can a limb or member of the natural body
retain the principle of life within it, if it be cut off
from the Body? — We must intercede with the Apostle
to change the simile, which he has taken,
or else we ~~must~~ must grant that a member or
Church which is cut off from the Church catholic
can not be in that ~~state~~ state which is a state
of Life. it is not animated with the true spirit which pro=
ceedeth from the Father & Son.